

Appl. No. 10/711,036  
Amdt. dated June 07, 2005  
Reply to Office action of March 11, 2005

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

**1. Rejection of claims 1-4, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C.102 as being anticipated by Chen (US 2003/0197242).**

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Regarding claims 1, 2, 16 and 17, Chen et al. teach a substrate isolation design (Fig. 1), comprising:

a P-substrate (100) ;

a P-well (104) on the substrate ;

10 a device (122) in the P-well; and

a P-substrate guard ring surrounding the device (portion of substrate beneath STI region (134)).

Regarding claim 3 and 18, Chen et al. teach a substrate isolation design comprising a P+ guard ring (132) surrounding the device;

15 Regarding claim 4, Chen et al. teach a substrate isolation design, wherein the P+ guard ring is between the device and the P-substrate guard ring.

Regarding claims 10 and 13. Chen et al. teach a substrate isolation design, comprising:

a substrate (100);

20 a device (122) on the substrate;

a first guard ring (132) surrounding the device;

a second guard ring (136) surrounding the first guard ring;

a third guard ring (portion of P-substrate 100, outside of P-well 104); and

the third guard ring being a P-substrate guard ring.

25 Regarding claim 11, Chen et al. teach a substrate isolation design, wherein the first guard ring comprises a P+ guard ring.

Regarding claim 14, Chen et al. teach a substrate isolation design, wherein the

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substrate guard ring is beneath a shallow trench isolation (134).

**Response:**

5        Because claims 12 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims,  
but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the  
base claims and intervening claims. So, claims 1 and 16 have been amended to combine with  
claim 21, and claim 10 has been amended to combine with claim 12. The amended claims 1,  
10 and 16 the limitation of the position of N well guard ring and are patentably  
10 distinguishable from Chen (US 2003/0197242), and no new matter is entered.  
Reconsideration of the amended claims is politely requested.

Other claims are dependent on the independent claims. If the independent claims are  
patentable, their dependent claims are also patentable.

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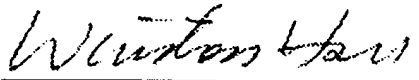
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this  
case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan.